



Serial Number 10/715,097
Attorney Docket No. 50087.0001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Burneikis, Virginijus Group Art Unit: 3731
Serial No.: 10/715,097 Examiner: Pous, Natalie R.
Filed: 11/17/2003 Confirmation No. 3256
For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR UMBILICUS PROTECTION DURING
ABDOMINAL SURGERY

Attorney Docket No.: 50087-0001

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.111

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated June 7, 2006, which set a shortened statutory period of three months, making any response due by September 7, 2006. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview on June 14, 2006 to clear-up Applicant's questions regarding this Office Action. During the interview, the Examiner agreed to certain amendments in the specification for clarity, as well as the teaching of specific pieces of referenced art. A more complete recitation of the substance of said interview is embodied in the responses and arguments contained in the body of this response. A copy of the interview summary is attached to this response as required by the rules.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

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Alla Meyer
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Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview on June 29, 2006 to review a preliminary amendment submitted by Applicant on June 16, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner and Applicant's attorney agreed to certain matters. Those matters are reflected in this amendment as required by the rules. In accordance with the summary interview incorporated herein by reference and attached hereto, Applicant understands that all remaining claims, as set forth in that preliminary amendment, and, therefore, this amendment, are allowable as amended over the art of record and all objections overcome. Nothing in this amendment changes the scope of claims as originally filled, but is meant to more clearly define the invention. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that citing of new art by the Examiner would not be as a result of any amendment set forth herein.

Specifically, during the interview it was agreed as follows: Upon review of Applicant's Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner agreed that the remarks and amendments overcome the cited references with regard to claims 11 through 17. The Examiner further acknowledged the addition of claims 32-35, including subject matter indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form in the previous Office action, renders those claims allowable over the art of record.

Further, during the interview, the Examiner acknowledged the submission of amendments to the specification as overcoming the objections thereto. The Examiner further acknowledged that the submission of amendments to claim 26 overcame the §112 rejection, and, therefore, claims 26-31 are likewise deemed allowable over the art of record. The amendments to the drawing which are submitted herewith are acknowledged as overcoming the objections thereto. Finally, it was agreed the Claims 1-10 and claims 17-25 remain withdrawn from this Application.

Please amend the above-identified specification as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 3 and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

Appendix A – Replacement Sheet